

**POPE SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
MEETING MINUTES  
Supervisory Board Meeting 7:00 am August 20, 2013  
Meeting site: USDA Service Center,  
1680 N. Franklin Street  
Glenwood, MN 56334**

**Supervisors:** Mike Billehus, Keith Nygaard, Gary Reents, Randy Pederson, Tom Talle  
**SWCD Staff:** Kelly Erickson, Matt Fischer  
**Guests:** Paul Gerde, Commissioner, Jeff Hellermann, NRCS-DC

**Meeting Agenda:**

1. Chair Nygaard called the meeting to order at 7:03 a.m.
2. Motion by Pederson, second by Reents to accept the agenda as presented. Carried.
3. Motion by Reents, second by Pederson to approve the July 16, 2013, July 29, 2013 and August 6, 2013 meeting minutes as sent. Carried.
4. Motion by Talle, second by Pederson to accept the Financial Report as presented. Carried.
5. Old Business
  - o Advertising for staff was discussed and applicants were reviewed.
  - o A reminder was given about the SWCD Governance 101 on September 4 and 5.
  - o Audit '12 needed to be signed for completion. Nygaard signed.
6. Reports-
  - o **Paul Gerde, County Commissioner**  
Director for Planning and Zoning has been hired from Washington County.  
Discussions regarding flooding issues and ponding on South Lakeshore Dr. County and White Bear Lake Township not responsible – landowner replaced 36” culvert with an 18” culvert. PCSWCD staff will help in facilitating meeting of involved parties. Negotiating with union reps, reviewing preliminary budgets  
(Matt Fishcer presented PSWCD request at C.O.W. meeting and restated our request at todays meeting.)
  - o **Kelly Erickson, Technician**  
WCA – Mr. Modlin got an extension on his Writ of Mandamus. He is currently in Vietnam for Habitat for Humanity. Had a meeting with landowners and Land and Resource Management on flooding issues on South Lakeshore Drive, with comment by Paul M. DOT engineer. Had 4 inquiries on ag drainage (besides NRCS). Will have a TEP meeting on August 21.  
Rosholt Farm – Concrete, poured by Braaten Construction, is complete. West Central Irrigation has installed the new submersible pump. Functioning 16-17 PSI, 60-70needed to rethrottle. The Field Day for Prairie Lakes Coop is Aug 29<sup>th</sup>. Old pump sold for \$700. We still have the 40hp Berkley motor. Possibly sell motor to Leo M. Nozzles on the irrigator were replaced. Required change for different function, last replaced in July – not worn out.  
Sales Program – Quite a bit of AR’s to become available. Has been working on mowing projects. Drills are still being rented for alfalfa interseeding. Still working on billing  
Measured observation wells for August and have the rainfall data for July.  
Is having issues with cell phone.
  - o **David Langer, Rosholt Water Quality Intern**  
Irrigator is working and has made 7 passes for a total of 4.69 inches. Water samples: around 1/3 of lysimeters are not pulling any water due to dry conditions. Fifteen sample sets have been tested and nitrate concentrations continue to increase. Concrete flooring was poured. As of August 19<sup>th</sup> corn was at r2 and soybeans at r5.

- **Matt Fischer, District Technician**

Trainings and Meetings – July 16: Presented Water Plan info to County Board. August 8: Attended the LSP Cover Crop Tour to show support for partners. August 13: Presented Draft Budget and Allocation Request to County Board – base \$62,500 same as before, black grant \$15,000, and ½ Water Plan \$7,500, required match for WCA (?), match for Clean Water Fund got \$30,000, asked for \$5,000 + \$15,000. Asking for additional funds - \$20,000 more – as WCA mandated program is a regulatory issue

CRP – 23 of 24 General CRP plans were accepted

RIM/WRP – Completed WRP easement monitoring - \$7,500 coming in

Cost Share/Grants – Motion by Reents second by Nygaard for approval for Cost Share Contract FY 13-02, a water sediment control basin for Kevin Lundebrek, Minnewaska Township, in the amount of \$2,740 from FY 2013 state cost share – EQIP funds also being used. Carried.

Motion by Talle second by Pederson to approve final payment for PSCSMA 10-03, thistle spraying for Dennis De Boer in the amount of \$280.67 (chem, labor in-kind only). Carried

Motion by Talle second by Pederson to approve final payment for PSCWMA 10-06, thistle spraying for Pat Rathke, New Prairie Twnshp, in the amount of \$667.87 (hired it done). Carried.

Farm Bill Grant/Walk In – FBA grant has been signed by all parties and can have time charged to it.

Other – Article in paper to get landowner interest for CWF Sediment Basin grant got 10-15 names, 13 were sent to Fergus. Communicated with Dennis Fuchs about partnering for a CWF grant application for irrigation management in the Bonanza Valley – Got info from DNR. Janel Maresh. Info to include in grant application well permits, declining trend in wells – irrigation technician for 3 years \$200,000. There may be a possibility to get some FEMA money for damaged conservation practices and new conservation practices on flood damaged areas due to the June storm (e.g. sediment basin washout for SS project?)

- **Melissa Gearman, Conservation Corps Apprentice**

Sent a Summer of 2013 Summary report. Worked mainly with the CWMA and the Rain and People's Garden. Has recently been working on DNR Lakeshore Grant and getting it ready for the next person.

- **Alex Nemmers, Cooperative Weed Management Intern**

Annual Weed Report

- **Jeff Hellermann, NRCS DC**

Compliance – Efforts to catch up are going strong. Forty-eight determinations and responses (due to 1026's) have been completed since the last meeting. Three appeals. A team of DC's Wetland Specialists, Todd Kulaf, Admin Asst and Jeff met at the Area Office from July 22-26. Todd and Jeff have been mailing the documents, completing new determinations and answering producer questions.

CRP – Melissa Behrens, SCT is currently working on site visits and conservation plans for signups 44 and 45. The deadline is September 13<sup>th</sup>.

CStP – Stewardship Programs – Field visits are complete. Now completing the conservation plans and other required documents. These must be submitted to the Area Office by August 23<sup>rd</sup>.

WRP – seeding, burn site permits – Payment applications have been submitted to the Area Office for work that has been certified meeting NRCS standards.

EQIP – Melissa is field checking contracts to verify completion and designing pipelines for nine grazing contracts. Jeff is certifying completed practices in Protracts, printing 1245s and reporting PRS. 13 requests for Area Office Assistance have been submitted. Purpose of request is to receive preliminary designs, quantities and cost estimates from engineering staff. Info is critical to help NRCS and landowners determine feasibility of each project for erosion control, production and financial reasons. Water and Sediment Control Basins (WaSCoBs) most popular. Local work group meeting is tentatively scheduled for 1pm Sept 3<sup>rd</sup> at USDA Service Center Conference Room.

7. New Business

- Cell phone currently used by Kelly needs replacement. Matt's phone number could be reassigned however it was recommended that rather go with a government issue phone, reimburse staff for use of their personal phones. Motioned by Reents, second by Talle to offer biannual (2x a year) stipend as follows: \$180 Kelly, \$90 for other techs, DM. Carried.
- Computer for Farm Bill Technician. Per recommendations of Mike Taylor motioned by Billehus second by Talle to spend up to \$2,500 for a laptop (same package as Hellerman) to access state programs, mapping, etc. Carried.
- DM Fischer had a resolution adopting the Pope County Comprehensive local Water Management Plan as the comp plan for the Pope SWCD. Motion to approve by Pederson, second by Reents. Carried
- A request to contribute to the Safety Pup program denied.
- A grant applied for by Justin was awarded awaiting our signature of acknowledgement, partnering with the Chippewa River to supply staffing and equipment to monitor point source pollution entering Lake Minnewaska. Motioned by Reents, second by Pederson to proceed with the process to be reviewed by imminent DM when he/she is in place. Carried.
- Motioned by Reents, second by Pederson to transfer assignment on PCSWCD credit card from Luan to Kelly Erickson. Carried.
- Board supervisors Billehus and Pederson were asked to leave as remainder of board with staff reviewed and selected applicants to be interviewed on Friday August 23<sup>rd</sup> for Administrative Assistant and Farm Bill Technician.

8. Motion by Talle, second by Reents to adjourn the meeting at 10:47 a.m. Carried.